

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 5, 2014

578

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We write to express our deep concern with your comments at the 2014 National Cable and Telecommunications Association cable show several weeks ago. You stated, "If municipal governments – the same ones that granted cable franchises – want to pursue it [taxpayer funded broadband], they shouldn't be inhibited by state laws. I have said before, that I believe the FCC has the power – and I intend to exercise that power – to preempt state laws that ban competition from community broadband."

The insinuation that the Federal Communications Commission will force taxpayer funded competition against private broadband providers – against the wishes of the states – is deeply troubling. Inserting the Commission into the states' economic and fiscal affairs in such a cavalier fashion shows a lack of respect for states' rights.

State governments across the country offer a stark contrast to the heavy hand of the federal government, especially in terms of the states' superior capability to protect the taxpayers from unnecessary debt, spending, and waste. States are much closer to their citizens and can meet their needs better than an unelected bureaucracy in Washington, D.C. The federal government has already saddled our states with enough unfunded liabilities. Your proposed community broadband experiment presents an unnecessary and risky government liability.

The last thing the Commission should do in these trying fiscal times, with so many other important priorities, is usurp state policy with respect to municipal broadband. State political leaders are accountable to the voters who elect them, and the Commission would be well-advised to respect state sovereignty. We look forward to your timely response, and we hope you will think critically about the Commission's role and how it can more appropriately interact with our state authorities.

Sincerely,



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Ron Johnson
United States Senator



Ted Cruz
United States Senator



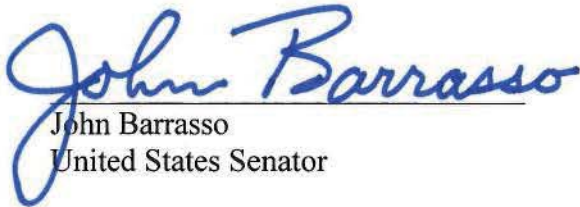
Marco Rubio
United States Senator



Tim Scott
United States Senator



Mike Enzi
United States Senator



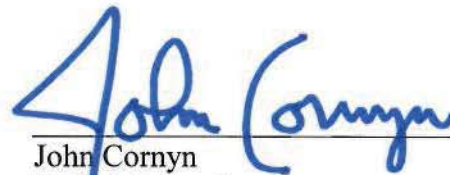
John Barrasso
United States Senator



Pat Roberts
United States Senator



Lamar Alexander
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Tom Coburn
United States Senator



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Deb Fischer
United States Senate
825 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Fischer:

Thank you for your letter concerning the critical issue of broadband deployment. The deployment of broadband is, as you know, a powerful platform that encourages economic growth and facilitates improvements in education, health care, public safety, and other key policy areas. This is particularly true for small and rural communities, where the availability of high quality broadband can be the difference between economic decline and a vibrant future.

Private sector incumbent telephone and cable companies have invested billions of dollars in broadband deployment in the past decade. That investment has been of great benefit to our Nation in many ways. However, that investment has not necessarily reached every corner of America. Around the country, communities have focused on the importance of ensuring that their citizens receive the benefits of broadband, and some have concluded that investing in their own broadband efforts – or authorizing others to invest in their behalf – will provide more competition and the economic and social benefits that accompany competition for their residents and businesses. Section 706 of the Communications Act charges the Federal Communications Commission with ensuring that broadband is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion. I believe that competition is a strong means to that critical goal.

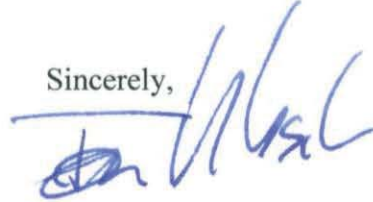
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Any Commission decision on community broadband issues will be made only after a full opportunity for comment by all interested parties in an open proceeding and a careful analysis of the specific factual, policy, and legal issues involved. I assure you that the final decision on these issues will be based on a careful analysis of the full record in any agency proceeding.

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Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Michael Enzi
United States Senate
379A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Enzi:

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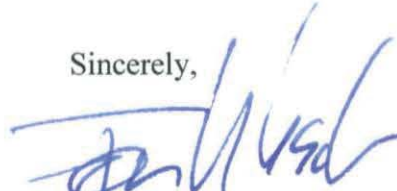
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OFFICE OF
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July 22, 2014

The Honorable Ted Cruz
United States Senate
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cruz:

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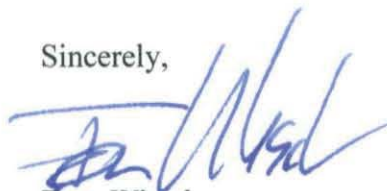
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July 22, 2014

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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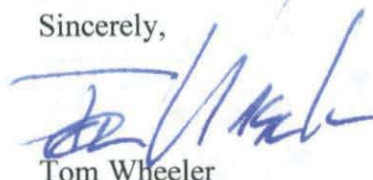
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
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July 22, 2014

The Honorable Tom Coburn
United States Senate
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coburn:

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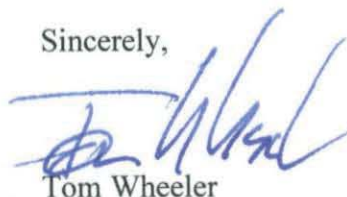
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July 22, 2014

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United States Senate
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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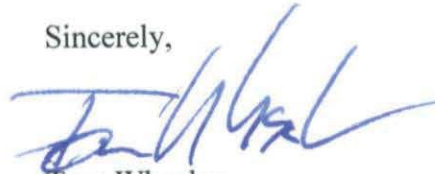
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Tom Wheeler



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WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
United States Senate
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Alexander:

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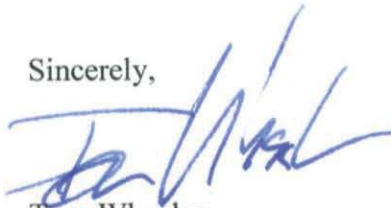
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OFFICE OF
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July 22, 2014

The Honorable Tim Scott
United States Senate
113 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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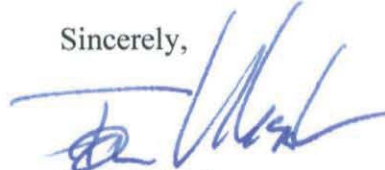
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July 22, 2014

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United States Senate
109 Hart Senate Office Building
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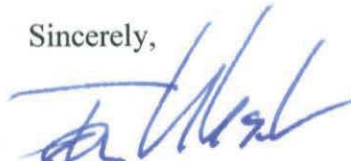
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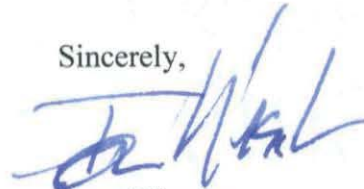
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The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Rubio:

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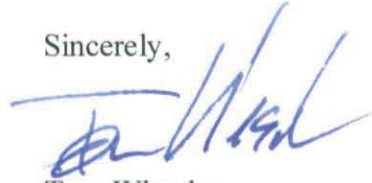
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